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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 8 August 1951

SUBJECT Konev Steelworks in Kladno

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1. The Konev Steelworks in Kladno employs a total of about 9,000 workers, not including the volunteer brigades which are employed on week ends. Work is done in three shifts. The plant is surrounded by a wooden and iron fence topped by barbed wire, and is guarded by a workers' militia armed with pistols. There have been a number of sit-down strikes (sic) in the plant as a result of poor wages. Because of this and the steady efflux of workers, who leave on account of poor safety measures taken in the plant, it has been necessary since March 1950 to use forced labor from a nearby camp and a labor detail from Pankrac prison.
2. The plant is being enlarged by the addition of a fully automatic blast furnace, which will increase the production capacity by between 30 and 40 percent. Low-grade iron ore, containing between 20 and 30 percent iron, is imported from the Krivoj Rog mines in the USSR. Other alloying metals and coke come from domestic production. There is a severe shortage of high-grade ore. Plant equipment is badly worn and the low-grade ore tends to clog the furnaces.

Attachment: Sketch of the Konev Steelworks in Kladno, with key.

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Key to Attachment

- I - IV Gates and guardhouses
- V Bridge over Lenin Street connecting the Konev plant with the Poldi plant. The bridge carries four railroad tracks.
- 1 Plant infirmary
- 2 Coking plant. Additional coke is delivered from Vitkovice.
- 2a Wooden cooling water tower, 15 m high
- 3-5 Three reinforced concrete buildings connected with each other and with the coking plant; synthetic gasoline is produced here as a by-product of the coking plant production.
- 6 Two natural ponds
- 7 Two semi-automatic blast furnaces
- 7a Blast furnace under construction. It will be fully automatic
- 8 Iron ore storage, built on concrete pillars with a sheet iron roof,
- 9 Ore dump and roasting furnaces
- 9a Concrete water reservoir
- 10 Coal-burning gas generators to heat the Cowper furnaces
- 11 Food warehouse
- 11a Washrooms
- 12, 12a Power station
- 13 Rolling mill
- 13a Locomotive repair shop
- 13b Eight Thomas convertors for processing iron from the blast furnaces
- 13c Casting section
- 13d New rolling mill and wire-drawing mill
- 14a-d Administration buildings
- 15 Repair shop
- 16 Machine shop
- 17 Unknown
- 18 Locomotive shed for narrow-gauge factory railway
- 19 Chamotte brick shop
- 19a, b Chamotte mills
- 19c Chamotte brick storage
- 20 Freight yard for Kladno-Nucice
- 21 Lime kiln with three chimneys 20 m high

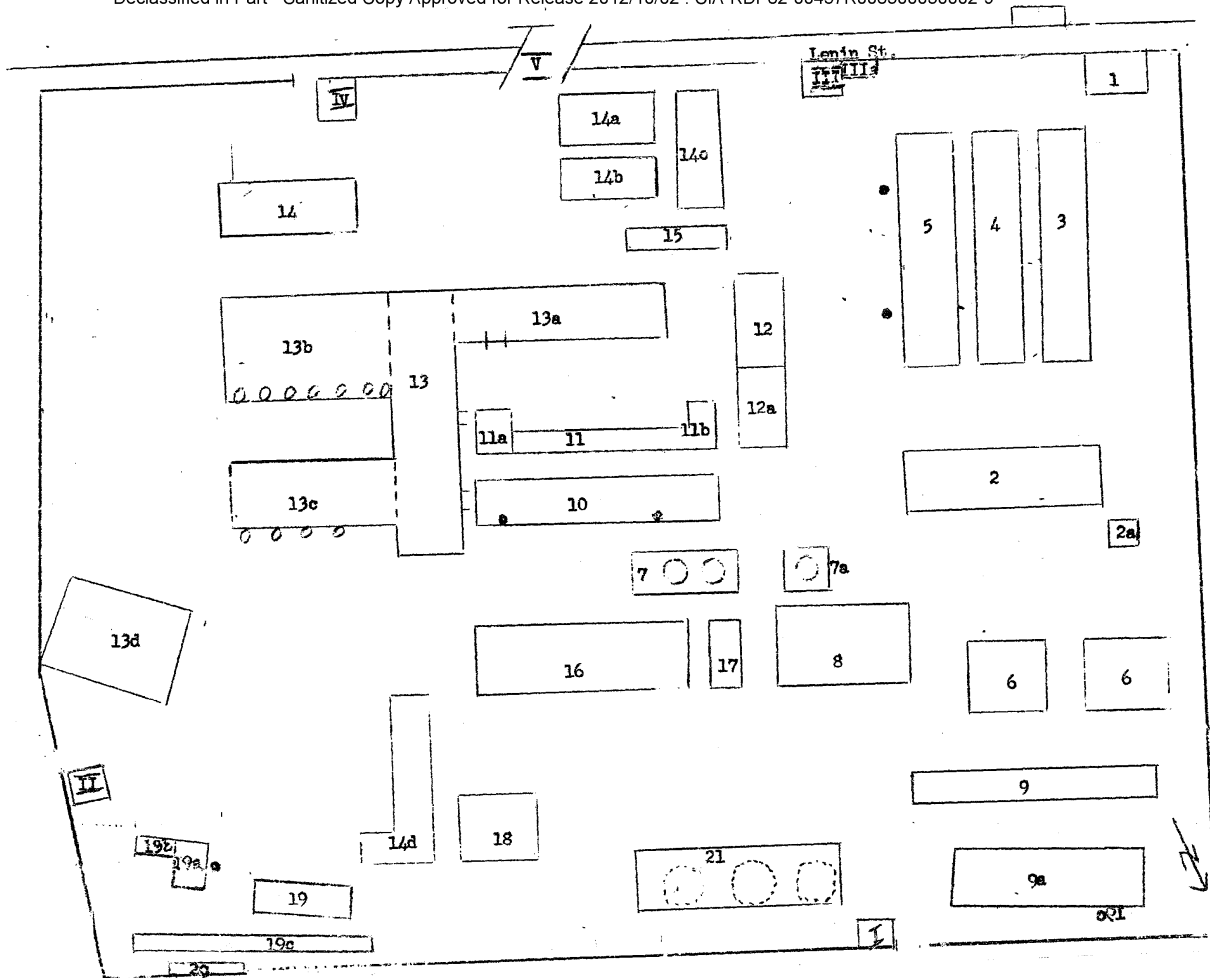
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Attachment

Konew Steelworks in Kladno



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